Numb. 144

The TATLER.

By *Isaac Bickerstaff* Esq;

From *Thursday March* 9. to *Saturday March* 11. 1709.

Sheer-Lane, March 10.

In a Nation of Liberty, there is hardly a Person in the whole Mass of the People more absolutely necessary than a Censor. It is allowed, that I have no Authority for assuming this important Appellation, and that I am Censor of these Nations, just as one is chosen King at the Game of Questions and Commands: But if, in the Execution of this fantastical Dignity, I observe upon Things which do not fall within the Cognizance of real Authority, I hope it will be granted, that an idle Man could not be more usefully employed. Among all the Irregularities of which I have taken Notice, I know none so proper to be presented to the World by a Censor, as that of the general Expence and Affectation in Equipage. I have lately hinted, that this Extravagance must necessarily get Footing where we have no sumptuary Laws, and where every Man may be dressed, attended, and carried, in what Manner he pleases. But my Tenderness to my Fellow Subjects will not permit me to let this Enormity go unobserved.

As the Matter now stands, every Man takes it in his Head, that he has a Liberty to spend his Money as he pleases. Thus, in Spight of all Order, Justice, and Decorum, we the greater Number of the Queen's loyal Subjects, for no Reason in the World but because we want Money, do not share alike in the Division of Her Majesty's High-Road. The Horses and Slaves of the Rich take up the whole Street, while we Peripateticks are very glad to watch an Opportunity to whisk cross a Passage, very thankful that we are not run over for interrupting the Machine, that carries in it a Person neither more handsome, wise, or valiant than the Meanest of us. For this Reason, were I to propose a Tax, it should certainly be upon Coaches and Chairs: For no Man living can assign a Reason, why one Man should have half a Street to carry him at his Ease, and perhaps only in Pursuit of Pleasures, when as good a Man as himself wants Room for his own Person to pass upon the most necessary and urgent Occasion. Till such an Acknowledgment is made to the Publick, I shall take upon me to vest certain Rights in the Scavengers of the Cities of *London* and *Westminster*, to take the Horses and Servants of all such as do not become or deserve such Distinctions into their peculiar Custody. The Offenders themselves I shall allow safe Conduct to their Places of Abode in the Carts of the said Scavengers, but their Horses shall be mounted by their Footmen, and sent into the Service Abroad: And I take this Opportunity in the first Place to recruit the Regiment of my good old Friend the brave and honest *Sylvius*, that they be as well taught as they are fed. It is to me most miraculous, so unreasonable an Usurpation as this I am speaking of should so long have been tolerated. We hang a poor Fellow for taking any Trifle from us on the Road, and bear with the Rich for robbing us of the Road it self. Such a Tax as this, would be of great Satisfaction to us who walk on Foot; and since the Distinction of riding in a Coach is not to be appointed according to a Man's Merit or Service to their Country, nor that Liberty given as a Reward for some eminent Virtue, we should be highly contented to see them pay something for the Insult they do us in the State they take upon them while they are drawn by us.

Till they have made us some Reparation of this Kind, we the Peripateticks of *Great Britain*, cannot think our selves well treated, while every one that is able is allowed to set up an Equipage.

As for my Part, I cannot but admire how Persons, conscious to themselves of no Manner of Superiority above others, can out of meer Pride or Laziness expose themselves at this Rate to publick View, and put us all upon pronouncing those Three terrible Syllables, Who is that? When it comes to that Question, our Method is to consider the Mien and Air of the Passenger, and comfort our selves for being dirty to the Ankles, by laughing at his Figure and Appearance who overlooks us. I must confess, were it not for the solid Injustice of the Thing, there is nothing could afford a discerning Eye greater Occasion for Mirth, than this licentious Huddle of Qualities and Characters in the Equipages about this Town. The Overseers of the Highway and Constables have so little Skill or Power to rectify this Matter, that you may often see the Equipage of a Fellow whom all the Town knows to deserve hanging, make a Stop that shall interrupt the Lord High Chancellor and all the Judges in their Way to *Westminster*.

For the better understanding of Things and Persons in this general Confusion, I have given Directions to all the Coach-Makers and Coach-Painters in Town to bring me in Lists of their several Customers, and doubt not, but with comparing the Orders of each Man, in the placing his Arms on the Doors of his Chariot, as well as the Words, Devices and Cyphers to be fix'd upon them, to make a Collection which shall let us into the Nature, if not the History, of Mankind more usefully than the Curiosities of any Medallist in *Europe*.

But this Evil of Vanity in our Figure, with many, many others, proceeds from a certain Gaiety

of

of Heart, which has crept into Men's very Thoughts and Complexions. The Paſſions and Adventures of Hero's, when they enter the Liſts for the Tournament in Romances, are not more eaſily diſtinguiſhable by their Palfreys and their Armour, than the ſecret Springs and Affections of the ſeveral Pretenders to Show amongſt us, are known by their Equipages in ordinary Life. The young Bridegroom with his gilded Cupids and winged Angels, has ſome Excuſe in the Joy of his Heart to launch out into ſomething that may be ſignificant of his preſent Happineſs: But to ſee Men for no Reaſon upon Earth, but that they are rich, aſcend Triumphant Chariots, and ride through the People, has at the Bottom nothing in it but an inſolent Tranſport, ariſing only from the Diſtinction of Fortune.

It is therefore high Time that I call in ſuch Coaches as are in their Embelliſhments improper for the Character of their Owners. But if I find I am not obeyed herein, and that I cannot pull down theſe Equipages already erected, I ſhall take upon me to prevent the Growth of this Evil for the future, by enquiring into the Pretenſions of the Perſons who ſhall hereafter attempt to make publick Entries with Ornaments and Decorations of his own Appointment. If a Man, who believ'd he had the handſomeſt Leg in this Kingdom, ſhould take a Fancy to adorn ſo deſerving a Limb with a Blue Garter, he would juſtly be puniſhed for offending againſt the Moſt Noble Order: And, I think, the general Proſtitution of Equipage and Retinue, is as deſtructive to all Diſtinction, as the Impertinence of one Man, if permitted, would certainly be to that illuſtrious Fraternity.

ADVERTISEMENT.

The Cenſor having lately received Intelligence, that the ancient Simplicity in the Dreſs and Manners of that Part of this Iſland, called Scotland, *begins to decay; and that there are at this Time in the good Town of* Edenburg, *Beaus, Fops, and Coxcombs; his late Correſpondent from that Place is deſired to ſend up their Names and Characters with all Expedition, that they may be proceeded againſt accordingly, and proper Officers named to take in their Canes, Snuff-boxes, and all other uſeleſs Neceſſaries commonly worn by ſuch Offenders.*

Advertiſements.

*** **PROPOSALS for Printing the LUCUBRATIONS of Iſaac Bickerſtaff Eſq; by Subſcriptions, in Two Volumes in Octavo, on a Large Character, and Fine Royal Paper, are to be ſeen, and Subſcriptions taken, at Charles Lillie's, a Perfumer, at the Corner of Beauford Buildings in the Strand, and John Morphew's near Stationers-Hall. All Perſons that deſign to ſubſcribe to this Work, are deſired to ſend their Subſcriptions with all Expedition, the Book being put to Preſs, in order to have it publiſhed before Eaſter.**

THis is to give Notice, That Mrs. A. Bradſhaw is obliged (Wedneſday next the 15th being Faſt-Day) to beg the Friends Patience for the Performance of her Conſort till Friday the 17th. Tickets are to be had at Charles Lillie's, Perfumer, at the Corner of Beauford-Buildings in the Strand, and at Tom's Coffee-houſe, Covent-Garden, at 5 s. per Ticket. N. B. It being Lent, there will be no Play that Night. The ſaid Mrs. Bradſhaw dwells now over-againſt Cecil-Court-End in Caſtle-Street, the Back of Leiceſter-Fields.

MEn's Morning-Gowns, of rich Silks, Stuffs, Calicoes, &c. (being the Goods of a Perſon that failed) to be diſpoſed of at very low Rates; may be ſeen at the Olive-Tree and Still within three Doors of Young Man's Coffee-houſe, againſt the Horſe at Charing-Croſs. The Prices being ſet on each Gown. Catalogues of the Particulars may be had at the Place of Sale.

*** **The Paul's Scholar's Copy-Book, containing the Round and Round-Text Hands, with Alphabets at large of the Greek and Hebrew, and Joining Pieces of each. Embelliſh'd with proper Ornaments of Command of Hand: By John Rayner, at the Hand and Pen in St. Paul's Church-yard, London. Publiſh'd for the Uſe of Schools. Sold by the Author, and Jonathan Robinſon at the Golden Lion in St. Paul's Church yard. Price 1 s.**

*** **Sir Cyrill Wich's Library continues to be ſold every Evening at Exeter-Exchange in the Strand, beginning at 5 of the Clock exactly. Catalogues are ſold at 6 d. each by E. Curll againſt St. Dunſtan's Church in Fleet-ſtreet, and R. Smith at his Warehouſe, the Place of Sale. Beginning to Night at the 53d Page, when will come on Baulinh & Rali Hiſt. Plantarum, 7 Vol. Medici Artis Principes, Schotti Curſus Mathematicus, Hooke's Micrographia, Newton's Principia, Sir J. Moore's Mathematicks, with many other ſcarce and valuable Books.**

*** **A Catalogue of Greek, Latin, Italian, Spaniſh, French, and Engliſh Books; wherein are contain'd above 200 Volumes, printed by Juntæ, Aldus, Vaſcoſan, R. and H. Stephens, Colineus, Turnebius, Morel, Plantin, Gryphius, and Elzevir; ſeveral Claſſick Authors in Uſum Delphini, & Notis Variorum; a Set of Grævius and Gronoviur's Roman and Greek Antiquities, in 25 Vol. To be ſold by Auction at the Weſt-End of Exeter-Exchange in the lower Walk, by P. Varenne, on Thurſday the 16th of this Inſtant March, at 5 in the Afternoon. Catalogues are ſold for 6 d. by J. Harding on the Pavement in St. Martin's-lane, E. Caſtle near the Admiralty-Office at Charing-Croſs, P. Varenne at Seneca's Head near Somerſet-houſe in the Strand, M. Wotton at the Three Daggers near the Temple-gate, J. Knapton at the Crown in St. Paul's Church-yard, S. Crouch at the Corner of Pope's-Head-alley, and at the Place of Sale.**

*** **A new Set of Maps of two Sheets of Imperial Paper, with curious Ornaments, and 3 new Sizes of Globes, either of 16 Inches Diameter, 12, or 3, for the Pocket, the Scale laid down from the Obſervations of Mr. Halley, Profeſſor of Geometry at Oxon. and Mr. Heuelius of Dantzick, and have 19 Conſtellations more than any other hitherto publiſhed. Done by J. Senex, and C. Price. Theſe, with moſt other Maps, and all Sorts of Mathematical Inſtruments, and many other Curioſities, are ſold by T. Brandreth, and G. Wildey, at the Anglo-medes and Globe next the Dog Tavern in Ludgate-ſtreet, where large Globes being on the Poſt before the Door.**

†‡† **This Day is publiſhed, Nauticum Aſtrologicum: Or, The Aſtrological Seaman; directing Merchants, Mariners, Captains of Ships, Enſurers, &c. how (by God's Bleſſing) they may eſcape divers Dangers which commonly happen at Sea. To which is added, A Diary of the Weather for 24 Years together, exactly obſerved in London: With ſundry Obſervations thereon. Being the Poſthumous Work of John Gadbury, late Student in Phyſick and Aſtrology. Printed for George Sawbridge at the Three Flower de-luces in Little Britain. Price bound 3 s. 6 d.**

†‡† **Juſt publiſh'd, A Weekly Paper, entitled, Athenian News; or, Dunton's Oracle: To be continued every Tueſday and Saturday, in 3000 diſtinct Poſts, entitled, The Merry-Poſt, the Philoſophick-Poſt, the Courting-Poſt, the Rhiming-Poſt, the Preaching-Poſt, and ſo on to 3000 Poſts, 30 of which compleat a Volume. To each of theſe Poſts will be added, The Coffeehouſe-Poſt; or, Athenian Mercury; reſolving all nice and curious Queſtions in Proſe or Verſe. Numb. 1. The Subject this Time is, Dunton's Poſt; or, A Dying Farewel to this Life. Sold by J. Morphew near Stationers-Hall.**

ANy Perſon that has the diſpoſing of a Place or Office of any Value, between 2 and 700 l. Value, in or near London, may meet with a Perſon that would treat for it at Brown's Coffee-houſe in Mitre-Court in Fleet-ſtreet.

A Brick Houſe, with Saſh-Windows, pleaſantly Situated, near the Queen's Arms in Mortlock in Surry, with a Garden, walled round, and well planted; alſo a Stable, and Brewhouſe, or Waſhhouſe, to be Let at 14 l. per Annum. Enquire at the Houſe, the Queen's Arms, or at Owen's Coffee-houſe in Symonds Inn in Chancery Lane.

A Large convenient Houſe, with Stables, Out-houſes, and Dove-houſe; a very fine Garden, with a Green-houſe, and fine Greens; ſeveral large Canals, ſupplied from a famous Trout River, at Mourdon in Surry, 7 Miles from London, being the Seat of the late Richard Garth Eſq; All to be lett by Lease with or without twenty Acres of Meadow Land, by Mr. Stone in Great St. Hellens.

The Record-Ink Powder, prepared by Auſtin Oldiſworth, Stationer, at the Golden Ball in Cannon-ſtreet, London; for making the blackeſt and moſt laſting Writing-Ink; far exceeding (for this Purpoſe) any diſſolving Powder now publiſhed under Pretence of a Patent. Each Sixpenny Paper of three Ounces, makes a Pint immediately, or a Quart, if infuſed a Month or longer. Sold by J. Morphew near Stationers-Hall, and the Stationers, Bookſellers and Haberdaſhers in London, and other Cities and chief Towns in Great Britain and Ireland.

RIght ſuperfine Brazil Snuff, with the beſt Colour and Flavour, is to be ſold at the Perfumer's Shop, at the Glove-over-againſt the Playhouſe in the Haymarket, as follows: Such who buy a Pound ſhall have it for 33 s. and but half a Pound, or a Quarter, after the Rate of 36 s. per Pound, which is but 2 s. and 3 d. per Ounce.